

10 May 2010

Newest Sidewinder,

Welcome and congratulations on receiving orders to Strike Fighter Squadron EIGHT SIX (VFA-86). VFA-86 is known around the Fleet as the Sidewinders. The Sidewinders are a great squadron with a long history for getting the job done. I think you will find your time with us to be rewarding, both professionally and personally.

The Sidewinders fly the McDonnell Douglas F/A-18C Hornets homeported at Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina. Beaufort is the second oldest city in South Carolina. Beaufort has a quaint historic district, and is within an easy day's drive to Savannah, Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina. Additional information about the command can be found at <http://www.2maw.usmc.mil/MAG31/VFA86/default.asp>. Also, you can check out the following websites for details about the surrounding areas: <http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/> and <http://www.beaufortgazette.com>. Please be aware that all single Sailors, PO2 and below, must check into and live in the barracks.

You have been assigned a sponsor and will receive their contact information along with a Welcome Aboard Package soon! In the meantime, if you have any questions you can send them via email address: [michele.craig@navy.mil](mailto:michele.craig@navy.mil). You may also call my office at (843)228-8911 (DSN: 335) or our Command's quarterdeck at (843)228-8900. Your sponsor can assist you and your family (if applicable) during their reassignment. Also, he/she can provide information about the command, housing, schools, and answer any questions you may have. If you are flying into the area, Savannah is the preferred airport. Please inform your sponsor of your flight arrangements. If you require transportation to the command, we will make arrangements to pick you up. We will ensure that your transition into the command is as smooth as possible. If at anytime you have problems getting in touch with me or your sponsor, please contact the Command Master Chief, CMDCM(AW/SW) T. Brummer, at [travis.brummer@navy.mil](mailto:travis.brummer@navy.mil).

Your mailing address will be:

Rate First/Last Name  
Department / Division  
Strike Fighter Squadron 86  
P.O. Box 66042  
Beaufort, SC 29904-6042

Your mailing address while deployed will be:

Rate First/Last Name  
Department / Division  
VFA 86 Unit 60152  
FPO AE 09501-6220

I look forward to personally welcoming you as our newest Sidewinder. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to call your sponsor, me, or any of the numbers provided below:

<b>DUTY OFFICE</b> -----	<b>DSN:</b>	<b>335-8900</b>
	<b>COMM:</b>	<b>(843) 228-8900</b>
<b>ADMIN</b> -----	<b>DSN:</b>	<b>335-8918</b>
	<b>COMM:</b>	<b>(843) 228-8918</b>

In closing, welcome to the best Strike Fighter Squadron in the Fleet!

Sincerely,

M. CRAIG  
NC1(AW/SW) USN  
Command Career Counselor